



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No: 10/621,984 Docket No: 500CON
Filing Date: 07/16/2003 Applicant: Verdell Thornton
Examiner: THOMAS, DAVID B Art Unit: 3723
Title: **AUTOMATED PILL BOTTLE OPENER**

To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

The following is in response to the Office Action dated 09/20/2004:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Original) An automated bottle opener comprising:
2 a casing with a receiving area to receive a bottle,
3 a plunger assembly to apply downward pressure on a top of a bottle cap of said
4 bottle, and
5 a rotator assembly to rotate said bottle cap; wherein
6 said casing comprises a means to secure a bottom of said bottle, and
7 said rotator assembly comprises a means to secure said top of said bottle cap; such
8 that
9 during an opening process initiated by a user moving a selector in a first direction, a
10 body of said bottle is prevented from rotating, and said rotator assembly rotates said bottle
11 cap while said plunger assembly simultaneously applies pressure to said top of said bottle
12 cap, thereby removing said bottle cap from said bottle, and

13 during a closing process, a direction of rotation of said rotator assembly is reversed
14 by moving said selector in a second direction, such that said bottle cap is replaced onto
15 said bottle.

1 2. (Original) The bottle opener as defined in claim 1 wherein:
2 motive power is supplied to said bottle opener by an electric motor in communication
3 with said plunger assembly by means of a gear drive.

1 3. (Original) The bottle opener as defined in claim 2 wherein:
2 said plunger assembly comprises a means to prevent said plunger from rotating
3 relative to said casing.

1 4. (Original) The bottle opener as defined in claim 1 wherein:
2 said plunger assembly comprises a means to prevent said plunger from rotating
3 relative to said casing.

1 5. (Original) The bottle opener as defined in claim 1 wherein:
2 when said plunger assembly reaches limit of a downward travel path, a central shaft
3 is pushed upward, and when upward pressure overcomes an overload spring, a reverse
4 switch is triggered, thereby reversing direction of rotation of said rotator assembly.

1 6. (Original) The bottle opener as defined in claim 1 wherein:
2 said rotator assembly comprises a rotator body with a pair of V-shaped cutouts

3 therein; and

4 tracking elements of said plunger assembly traverse said V-shaped cutouts to define
5 a stroke of said plunger, said tracking elements causing upward pressure on a drive shaft
6 of said plunger assembly when said tracking elements reach a bottom of said V-shaped
7 cutouts.

1 7. (Original) The bottle opener as defined in claim 1 wherein:

2 said plunger assembly is in communication with said rotator assembly through a
3 rotator spring, such that said rotator spring is compressed after an upper gripping surface
4 of said rotator contacts a top surface of said bottle cap, thereby enabling said plunger to
5 continue to exert downward pressure on said bottle cap while said rotator assembly rotates
6 said bottle cap.